

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 32733 020617Z

60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

/055 W

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R 020422Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO DEA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 6706

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

US MISSION GENEVA 2259

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 32733

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJ: BURMESE DISPOSAL OF SEIZED NARCOTICS

REF: A) BANGKOK 32617, B) STATE 197939

1. EMBASSY BANGKOK IS MAKING A CONTINUING EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THE THAI TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM OF STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF SEIZED NARCOTICS. OUR PRIMARY INTEREST IS TO ENSURE THAT, ONCE REMOVED FROM THE ILLICIT MARKET, THESE DRUGS DO NOT FIND THEIR WAY BACK INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS. AT PRESENT, THE THAI AUCTION SEIZED OPIUM, BUT IN PAST, THE PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO DESTROY SEIZED, REFINED OPIATES SUCH AS MORPHINE AND HEROIN ONCE ALL COURT CASES INVOLVING THEIR SEIZURE HAVE BEEN DECIDED. UNFORTUNATELY, REFINED OPIATES TEND TO BE STORED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME BEFORE THEY ARE DISPOSED OF, THEREFORE INCREASING THE POSSIBILITY OF PILFERAGE OR THEFT.

2. WITH INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY S/NM, THE MISSION IS CURRENTLY ENCOURAGING THE THAI TO SELL THEIR STOCKS OF REFINED OPIATES TO LEGITIMATE PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW THE BURMESE HANDLE THIS PROBLEM, AS A POSSIBLE EXAMPLE TO

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 32733 020617Z

THE THAI. WE ASSUME THAT, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND

ESPECIALLY WITH INCREASING BURMESE DETERMINATION TO ELIMINATE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, LARGE QUANTITIES OF OPIUM, MORPHINE, HEROIN AND OTHER OPIATES HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY BURMESE AUTHORITIES.

3. DOES EMBASSY RANGOON HAVE ACCURATE FIGURES ON TOTALS SEIZED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS? HOW HAVE THESE NARCOTICS BEEN DISPOSED OF? DO THE BURMESE SELL ANY SEIZED NARCOTICS TO COMMERCIAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES? IF SO, WHICH OPIATES, AND TO WHAT COMPANIES? HOW DO THE BURMESE ENSURE THAT SEIZED NARCOTICS DO NOT RE-ENTER THE ILLICIT MARKET? IS EMBASSY ABLE TO MONITOR ANY OF THESE DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES? ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS AND ANY RELATED INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY WILL BE APPRECIATED.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SALES, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO32733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760446-0925
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761276/aaaacoep.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 32617, 76 STATE 197939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURMESE DISPOSAL OF SEIZED NARCOTICS
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM
To: RANGOON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006